

What is claimed is:

1. A photographic image selecting apparatus comprising:

5 a classifying means for classifying a plurality of photographic images into similar photographic image groups, comprising photographic images which are similar to each other, the similarities being determined by analyzing digital data representing the photographic images;

10 a qualified photographic image extracting means for extracting photographic images, that satisfy predetermined selection conditions as qualified photographic images, from each of the similar photographic image groups; and

15 a differentiating and processing means for differentiating the qualified photographic images from the other photographic images and administering processes thereon.

2. A photographic image selecting apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein:

20 the predetermined selection conditions include image quality levels.

3. A photographic image selecting apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein:

the qualified photographic image extracting means is equipped with a selection condition setting means; and

25 the selection condition setting means is capable of setting the selection conditions for each similar

photographic image group.

4. A photographic image selecting apparatus as defined in Claim 2, wherein:

the qualified photographic image extracting means is  
5 equipped with a selection condition setting means; and

the selection condition setting means is capable of setting the selection conditions for each similar photographic image group.

5. A photographic image selecting apparatus as  
10 defined in Claim 3, wherein:

the selection condition setting means sets the selection conditions so that at least one qualified photographic image is extracted from each of the similar photographic image groups.

15 6. A photographic image selecting apparatus as defined in Claim 4, wherein:

the selection condition setting means sets the selection conditions so that at least one qualified photographic image is extracted from each of the similar  
20 photographic image groups.

7. A photographic image selecting apparatus as defined in Claim 3, wherein:

the selection condition setting means sets the selection conditions to be stricter for similar  
25 photographic image groups having a greater number of photographic images included therein.

8. A photographic image selecting apparatus as defined in Claim 4, wherein:

the selection condition setting means sets the selection conditions to be stricter for similar  
5 photographic image groups having a greater number of photographic images included therein.

9. A photographic image selecting apparatus as defined in Claim 3, wherein:

the selection condition setting means sets the  
10 selection conditions according to a specified number of qualified photographic images to be extracted from each of the similar photographic image groups.

10. A photographic image selecting apparatus as defined in Claim 4, wherein:

15 the selection condition setting means sets the selection conditions according to a specified number of qualified photographic images to be extracted from each of the similar photographic image groups.

11. A photographic image selecting apparatus as  
20 defined in Claim 1, wherein:

the differentiating and processing means performs processes wherein only the qualified photographic images are printed.

12. A photographic image selecting apparatus as  
25 defined in Claim 1, wherein:

the differentiating and processing means performs

processes wherein the qualified photographic images and the other photographic images are printed at different sizes.

13. A photographic image selecting apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein:

5 the differentiating and processing means performs processes wherein the qualified photographic images and the other photographic images are differentiated, then recorded in a recording medium.

14. A photographic image selecting apparatus as  
10 defined in Claim 1, wherein:

the differentiating and processing means performs processes wherein only the qualified photographic images are recorded in a recording medium.

15. A photographic image selecting apparatus as  
15 defined in Claim 1, wherein:

the differentiating and processing means is a display means; and

only the qualified photographic images are displayed thereby.

20 16. A photographic image selecting apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein:

the differentiating and processing means is a slideshow display means; and

25 the qualified photographic images and the other photographic images are displayed as slides for different display durations.

17. A program that causes a computer to execute selection of photographic images, comprising:

a classifying procedure for classifying a plurality of photographic images into similar photographic image groups, comprising photographic images which are similar to each other, the similarities being determined by analyzing digital data representing the photographic images;

a qualified photographic image extracting procedure for extracting photographic images, that satisfy predetermined selection conditions as qualified photographic images, from each of the similar photographic image groups; and

a differentiating and processing procedure for differentiating the qualified photographic images from the other photographic images and administering processes thereon.

18. A computer readable medium having recorded therein a program that causes a computer to execute selection of photographic images, comprising:

a classifying procedure for classifying a plurality of photographic images into similar photographic image groups, comprising photographic images which are similar to each other, the similarities being determined by analyzing digital data representing the photographic images;

a qualified photographic image extracting procedure  
for extracting photographic images, that satisfy  
predetermined selection conditions as qualified  
photographic images, from each of the similar photographic  
5 image groups; and

a differentiating and processing procedure for  
differentiating the qualified photographic images from the  
other photographic images and administering processes  
thereon.